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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590

03/18/2010

Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

DAVIS, ZACHARY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2437

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,817	07/16/2003	Stephen F. Bisbee	003670-104	1237

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A REMOTE ACCESS SERVICE ENABLING TRUST AND INTEROPERABILITY WHEN  
RETRIEVING CERTIFICATE STATUS FROM MULTIPLE CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY REPORTING COMPONENTS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/18/2010

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
**or Fax** **(571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

7590 03/18/2010

Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/620,817 07/16/2003

Stephen F. Bisbee

003670-104

1237

**TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A REMOTE ACCESS SERVICE ENABLING TRUST AND INTEROPERABILITY WHEN RETRIEVING CERTIFICATE STATUS FROM MULTIPLE CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY REPORTING COMPONENTS**

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/18/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DAVIS, ZACHARY A	2437	713-156000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev. 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2

3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

DAVIS, ZACHARY A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 466 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 466 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/620,817

**Applicant(s)**

BISBEE ET AL.

**Examiner**

Zachary A. Davis

**Art Unit**

2437

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received 02 December 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 15-18, 34 and 35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Zachary A Davis/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. A response was received on 02 December 2009. By this response, Claims 1-7, 9-11, 15-18, and 35 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Claims 19-33 were previously withdrawn from further consideration as drawn to a nonelected invention. Claims 1-11, 15-18, 34, and 35 are currently under consideration in the present application.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Royal Craig on 05 March 2010.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **CANCEL Claims 19-33**.

Please **REPLACE Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, and 35** with the following amended claims:

1. A method of providing a Certificate Status Service ("CSS") for checking validities of certificates issued by respective issuing Certification Authorities ("CAs"), comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~one or more certificate~~ status queries for one or more certificates from requesting entities;

if the issuing CAs are not found on a CSS's list of approved CAs or the certificates have expired, returning invalid statuses for those certificates;

if current certificate statuses are found in a CSS cache memory, returning ~~these~~ the found certificates' statuses;

if any certificate statuses have not yet been determined, fetching, from a CSS configuration store, all certificate status reporting methods and communications information that are needed for retrieving, from the respective issuing CAs, a certificate status of each certificate whose status has not yet been determined;

configuring connectors based on the identified information for communicating with the issuing CAs;

communicating with the issuing CAs according to the configured connectors;

retrieving the certificate statuses of all queried certificates;

processing the certificate statuses according to ~~the appropriate~~ certificate status reporting methods implemented by the CSS including that may include, but ~~that may include~~ but [[is]] not limited to, a real-time certificate status retrieval protocol including LDAP, OCSP, and any other certificate status retrieval protocol for retrieving certificate statuses in real-time, and one of Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs) that are retrieved at specified

publication intervals and Delta Certificate Revocation Lists ( $\Delta$ CRLs) that are retrieved upon notification, ~~and LDAP, OCSP, and any other certificate status means that retrieve certificate statuses in real time;~~

recording retrieved certificate statuses in the CSS cache memory; and

returning the retrieved certificate statuses to the requesting entities;

wherein the issuing CAs and connector parameters, which enable the CSS to interwork with any CAs and CA domains even though the CSS and issuing CAs may operate using dissimilar certificate practices and policies, are designated on a list of approved CAs in the CSS configuration store.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the issuing CA is added to at least one organization's list of approved CAs by vetting and approving the issuing CA according to predetermined business rules, wherein the business rules include at least one rule for reviewing the acceptability of the CA's certificate policy and practices for ~~insuring~~ ensuring the identity of the entity requesting the certificate, and if the issuing CA is vetted and not approved or later disapproved, the issuing CA is added to the at least one organization's list of not-approved CAs in the CSS configuration store and/or has any prior entry removed from the at least one organization's list of approved CAs.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein vetting and approving the issuing CA include registering a representation of a trusted certificate of the CA with the CSS and adding, to the CSS configuration store, at least the certificate status reporting component of the

CA[;]], the certificate status reporting ~~method~~ component including, but not limited to CRL, OCSP, or LDAP[;]; a time-to-live data element; and communication information needed to configure a connector.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

checking and updating the CSS cache memory for the queried certificate status, and if the queried certificate status is found in the CSS cache memory, checking that the local date and time are within the certificate's validity period and that the time-to-live data element and use-counter values are within a threshold;

if any of the validity period, time-to-live data element, or use-counter values are unacceptable, clearing the CSS cache memory, wherein if the queried certificate status is not found in the CSS cache memory, the CSS establishes a communication session with the certificate status reporting component of the issuing CA, composes a certificate status request using one of the CRL or real-time reporting methods according to the configured connector, retrieves the queried certificate status from the certificate status reporting component, closes the communication session with the certificate status reporting component, and adds at least one of the ~~certificate's~~ certificate identification, certificate's status, use-counter, and time-to-live data element to the CSS cache memory.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein if the certificate status reporting method is indicated to be a Certificate Revocation List, then, according to a publication schedule



of the issuing CA, ~~wherein~~ the CSS retrieves the CRL from a certificate status reporting component listed in the CSS configuration store, the CSS clears the CSS cache memory associated with the issuing CA, and the CSS extracts the certificate statuses of all certificates from the CRL and stores the extracted certificate statuses in the CSS cache memory associated with the issuing CA.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein if the certificate status reporting method is indicated to be a  $\Delta$ CRL, ~~wherein~~ then upon notification by the issuing CA that the  $\Delta$ CRL is available, the CSS retrieves the  $\Delta$ CRL from a certificate status reporting component listed in the CSS configuration store and if the  $\Delta$ CRL is a full CRL, then the CSS clears the CSS cache memory associated with the issuing CA, extracts all certificate statuses from the CRL, and stores the extracted certificate statuses in the CSS cache memory, and if the  $\Delta$ CRL contains changes occurring after publication of a full CRL, the CSS extracts all certificate statuses from the  $\Delta$ CRL, and stores the extracted certificate statuses in the CSS cache memory.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ certificates are held in the CSS configuration store until expiration and information is extracted as needed.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising retrieving ~~of the~~ statuses of the certificates issued by the approved CAs in response to

queries from a trusted third-party repository of information objects to the CSS to validate the certificate statuses, further comprising ~~comprises~~ the steps of:

locating and reporting the requested certificate statuses if the certificate statuses are present and current in the CSS cache memory;

if the certificate statuses are not present in the CSS cache memory, performing the steps of:

obtaining the communications information, certificate status types, and retrieval methods from the CSS configuration store;

if the certificate status type is CRL, and the CRL in the CSS cache memory is current, and the certificate statuses are not found in the CSS cache memory, then reporting the certificate statuses as valid; and

if the certificate status type is CRL, the CRL is not current or found in the CSS cache memory, and local time is greater than a next scheduled publication time for the CRL, or if the certificate status type is not CRL,

creating connectors and composing certificate status requests according to the respective certificate status type;

establishing communication sessions with the certificate status reporting components of the issuing CAs;

retrieving the certificate statuses from the certificate status reporting components using the obtained retrieval methods and ending the communication sessions;

interpreting the retrieved certificate statuses;

associating, with the interpreted retrieved certificate statuses, time-to-live values representing periods specified by the respective CSS policy policies for the certificate status types;

adding at least one of the ~~certificate's~~ certificate identification, the interpreted retrieved certificate status and time-to-live values to the CSS cache memory; and

reporting the interpreted retrieved certificate statuses to the trusted third-party repository of information objects.

15. The method of claim 1, ~~for providing certificate status reports for certificates issued by the approved CAs~~ further comprising:

reporting valid certificate statuses when the certificate status type is CRL, the CRL is current, and the certificate statuses are not found in the CSS cache memory;

reporting the certificate statuses when the certificate statuses are found in the CSS cache memory and the time-to-live and use-counter values have not exceeded respective thresholds; otherwise,

if either the time-to-live or use-counter values have exceeded respective thresholds, clearing the certificate statuses from the CSS cache memory;

if the certificate statuses have not been reported in a previous step, then requesting and retrieving the certificate statuses using the certificate status type reporting method indicated in the CSS configuration store;

when the status type is CRL, retrieving and parsing the new CRL at a next indicated publication time;

when the certificate status type is at least one of the type LDAP, OSCP, and any other real-time certificate status reporting protocol, retrieving and parsing the certificate status;

adding at least one of the ~~certificate's~~ certificate identification, certificate status, time-to-live and use-counter values to the CSS cache memory; and

reporting the retrieved certificate statuses to the requesting entity.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein a certificate status use-counter data element is added to the CSS's certificate status cache, wherein the certificate status use-counter data element is incremented or decremented every time the certificate's status is checked, and if the certificate status use-counter value exceeds a respective threshold, then the certificate status is reported and the CSS cache memory is cleared with respect to the certificate status.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein when a request is made to the CSS to retrieve a certificate status of a new certificate and the CSS cache memory has reached an allocated memory size limit, the CSS searches the CSS cache memory for every certificate status entry where the current time exceeds the time-to-live value for every certificate status entry where the value of the use-counter data element exceeds the threshold and the value of the at least one certificate status entry with the oldest last-

accessed value, wherein the CSS then clears the respective CSS cache memory entries, retrieves the requested certificate status, places the retrieved certificate status in the CSS cache memory, and reports the ~~requested~~ retrieved certificate status to the requesting entity.

35. The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[any]]~~ the CSS can query ~~any other~~ a second CSS for the certificate status if ~~that other~~ the second CSS is designated in the CSS configuration store as an approved certificate status reporting component for the issuing CA.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-11, 15-18, 34, and 35 are allowed.
5. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 19-33 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 19-33 have been cancelled, as noted above.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a method that provides a certificate status service that includes receiving queries for the status of one or more certificates; returning an invalid status for certificates having an issuing CA that is not found on a list of approved CAs; returning current certificate statuses if those are found in a cache memory; and, if certificate statuses need to be determined, fetching, from a configuration store, status reporting methods and communication information needed for retrieving certificate status from the respective issuing CA; configuring connectors and communicating with the CA based on the communication information; retrieving and processing the certificate statuses of the queried certificates, where the CSS includes both real time certificate status retrieval protocols and CRL or delta CRL protocols; caching the retrieved statuses; and returning the retrieved statuses to the requesting entities. The closest cited prior art, Koehler and Barrett, generally disclose a similar method of caching retrieved certificate statuses that includes checking an issuing CA against a list of approved CAs, providing certificate status if it is found in the cache, and if status is not found in the cache, fetching information needed for retrieving the status

from a respective issuing CA, configuring connectors and communicating with the issuing CA, retrieving and processing certificate status according to a CRL, caching the retrieved status, and returning the retrieved status to the requesting entities. Additional cited prior art discloses caching certificate statuses retrieved and processed according to real-time certificate status retrieval protocols. However, none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the use of both a real-time certificate status retrieval protocol and the use of CRLs in an interoperating manner as claimed, in combination with the other cited limitations. In general, the cited prior art that discusses both CRLs and real-time protocols only discloses them as alternatives and does not appear to disclose the two types of protocols in use together in an interoperating manner as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary A. Davis whose telephone number is (571)272-3870. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Zachary A Davis/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2437